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Chairman: Mr. Gómez Robledo ..... (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 100: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/61/37, A/61/178, A/61/210 and Add.1, and A/61/280)

1. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) said that his country unreservedly condemned terrorism, which undermined the rule of law and destabilized Governments. It had to be combated through the determined efforts of the entire international community, in conformity with international law, and in particular with the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. He therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and plan of action (A/RES/60/288). Myanmar was firmly committed to fighting terrorism nationally, regionally and internationally. It had enacted 20 laws on the subject and acceded to 10 related international legal instruments, as well as ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and it participated actively in regional counter-terrorism efforts within the framework of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. He expressed appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for enhancing its activities in that area, particularly for its technical assistance, and encouraged the Counter-Terrorism Committee to take steps to improve its technical assistance delivery capacity.

2. **Mr. Gümrükçü** (Turkey) said that terrorism was a crime against humanity and could never be justified. While the international community had been slow in agreeing on a united response, it was to be commended for its recent adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; that was a strong signal that States were determined to overcome any differences of views in order to combat terrorism. However, the full and effective implementation of the Strategy was an even more demanding challenge, in the face of which there was no room for complacency, discrimination or double standards. Turkey accordingly joined in the call for an implementation and review mechanism in order to translate the Strategy into action. In that process, care should be taken not to associate any particular culture or religion with terrorism as that could lead to an even more dangerous confrontation. Indeed, the promotion of dialogue, tolerance and understanding between cultures should be an integral part of the fight against terrorism, through such initiatives as the Alliance of Civilizations. He concluded by calling on Member States to show the utmost flexibility and pragmatism with a view to the early conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, in which he pledged Turkey's full cooperation.

3. **Mr. Khair** (Jordan) said that his country condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations. Concerted international efforts to eradicate terrorism were imperative, for it was a global scourge that knew no boundaries and endangered the security and safety of all peoples. It was equally imperative to fight all poisonous attempts to link terrorism with Islam; terrorism was incompatible with the principles of that religion and its message of dialogue and tolerance as the basis for conflict resolution, principles that were articulated in Jordan's royal initiative known as the Amman Message.

4. His delegation welcomed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and advocated its periodic review. Jordan also affirmed the importance of continuing negotiations for the earliest possible achievement of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. In that connection, the agreement as to the scope of application of such a convention was a step towards the necessary compromise. Under no circumstances, however, should that compromise be reached at the expense of human rights and freedoms or international humanitarian law.

5. Jordan's own counter-terrorism measures included the amendment of legislation and heightened security and border control. It had also acceded to the relevant international conventions and instruments and coordinated with various countries and with the United Nations, in particular the Counter-Terrorism Committee. It welcomed the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under United Nations auspices, as well as the Saudi Arabian initiative for the establishment of an international counter-terrorism centre.

6. **Mr. Aljumaa** (Saudi Arabia) said that international terrorism remained a worldwide danger. It was essential to tackle its root causes and alleviate the despair, frustration and anger that fuelled evil and potentially explosive tendencies. Terrorist activities meanwhile continued to test the international resolve to fight them. Itself a victim, Saudi Arabia condemned

terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations and had adopted successful counter-terrorism measures. It had acceded to most of the international counter-terrorism conventions and to various regional conventions on the subject. In 2005, it had also hosted an international conference on combating terrorism that had endorsed its proposal for the establishment of an international counter-terrorism centre under United Nations auspices.

7. While renewing its commitment to support and participate in the global counter-terrorism campaign, Saudi Arabia wished to highlight the feelings of disquiet in certain parts of the world that the campaign was being twisted and exploited by extremists and proponents of the "clash of civilizations" thesis. It was emphatically the case that no religion advocated terrorism or could be held responsible for the actions of any of its misguided followers, and Saudi Arabia rejected all charges of terrorism mistakenly alleged against Islam. The global campaign should be conducted in conformity with the rules of international and customary law, just as it should remain consistent with humanitarian values and respect all religions, with no desecration of their symbols and no slurs cast on their reputation.

8. **Ms. Kaewpanya** (Thailand) said that terrorism was one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and was unreservedly condemned by Thailand, which had a firm policy of action against it, both regionally and within the framework of the United Nations. It had acceded to six international anti-terrorism conventions and protocols and signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism recently adopted by the General Assembly. Pending Thailand's ratification of the remaining international anti-terrorism instruments, it was able to take all necessary measures under its domestic law; it had organized two workshops on the subject, in cooperation with UNODC.

9. Her delegation welcomed the adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which would help ensure a coordinated and collective response to the phenomenon. She expressed appreciation to the Secretary-General for his two reports on terrorism (A/61/210 and A/61/178) and to UNODC for its technical assistance, to which more resources could usefully be devoted. Lastly, she voiced the hope that Member States would overcome their differences in order to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention. That would not obviate the need, however, to address the conditions that contributed to the spread of terrorism, including poverty, human rights abuses and cultural and religious discrimination.

10. **Mr. Adekayne** (Nigeria) said that terrorism was a threat to peace and security at every level; it destroyed infrastructure, endangered territorial integrity and impeded sustainable development. Nigeria condemned it as a criminal act for which there could never be any justification. His country continued to support all the measures taken by the United Nations to combat terrorism, had ratified 7 and signed 12 of the main international conventions on the subject and benefited from the cooperation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which had arranged to visit Nigeria in the following month. He hailed the landmark adoption by the General Assembly in 2005 of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism while stressing that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons was also a factor of terrorism that needed to be addressed.

11. On the question of the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations, he said that it should be held after the adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on the subject. Nigeria for its part was committed to the fight against terrorism at every level; to that end, it had enacted a number of bills, intensified its collaboration with other members of the Economic Community of West African States and contributed to the adoption of measures within the African Union. At the domestic level, it had strengthened its regulatory and monitoring machinery; at the bilateral level, it had entered into agreements on mutual legal assistance and extradition with a number of countries. He pledged his country's continued cooperation with other Member States in combating the scourge.

12. **Ms. Afetse Tay** (Togo) said that adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a decisive advance in the efforts made to combat terrorism since the attacks against the United States of America on 11 September 2001 and a strong signal of the international community's commitment to that goal. She urged all national and international stakeholders to demonstrate the spirit of solidarity needed to ensure its success. The full implementation of the decisions taken at the major United Nations

conferences, including the Millennium Summit, would also help to reduce the threat of terrorist attacks.

13. Togo for its part had ratified the 13 international instruments against terrorism and was making every effort to translate them into action, including through domestic legislation. It fully endorsed the 2006 Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa and hoped that appropriate steps would be taken to give effect to the commitments made at the national, regional and international levels. She commended the Ad Hoc Committee for its efforts to draw up a draft comprehensive convention that would be acceptable to everyone and encouraged it to give special attention to the question of the convening of a high-level conference on terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. Lastly, she expressed the hope that the Working Group of the Sixth Committee would make every effort to overcome the remaining difficulties and ensure the success of the negotiations with a view to the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

14. **Ms. Bovi** (San Marino) said her delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated her Government's firm intention to cooperate with all Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to prevent and eliminate that scourge. She hailed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and believed that its implementation would produce very satisfactory results. She said that the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Uniting against terrorism: recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy" (A/60/825) had clearly analysed the most relevant elements of action against terrorism and remained a valuable point of reference for further discussions.

15. The underlying causes of terrorism needed to be understood and eradicated. The report's description of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and the definition of specific measures to prevent and curb its spread were particularly useful. Tolerance and understanding among different cultures and religions was important and could be promoted only through the establishment of a frank dialogue, education and the careful use of the mass media.

16. It was essential to recognize the direct link that existed between development and terrorism. As history had demonstrated, economic marginalization and poverty could give rise to social dissent and breed terrorism. Action against terrorism had to be accompanied by the promotion of good governance, the rule of law and the protection of human rights at all levels. The United Nations should be more proactive in disseminating and safeguarding those principles.

17. Her Government was cooperating in the full implementation of all United Nations resolutions and regional and international instruments on terrorism and had complied with its reporting obligations.

18. It was vital to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the current session. Since there was general agreement that the causes of terrorism were closely linked to global issues such as development, human rights and conflict resolution, Member States should show greater flexibility in the negotiating process; achieving results in those areas would help to reduce the greatest affliction of the current era.

19. **Mr. Farhâdi** (Afghanistan) said that international terrorism was one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It constituted a flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms and jeopardized the territorial integrity of States.

20. In Afghanistan, terrorists strove to impede the progress achieved there over the previous five years. Remnants of the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other radical extremist groups were infiltrating the country's borders and carrying out increasingly brutal attacks against all segments of the population, members of non-governmental organizations and soldiers of the international coalition, especially in the south and south-eastern areas.

21. A comprehensive and robust strategy that addressed the multifarious aspects of international terrorism was required. It was therefore imperative to tackle the root causes of insecurity in Afghanistan. It was clear that the provision of continued financial and logistical support to the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremists was in flagrant violation of General Assembly resolution 49/60, on measures to eliminate international terrorism, the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism annexed thereto and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist

acts. It was to be hoped that States would sincerely implement those texts.

22. His Government remained committed to overcoming the dangers terrorists posed to the stability and prosperity of his country. The national army and police, with the backing of the coalition forces, were conducting joint combat operations against remnants of the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremists, but sustained international assistance was needed in order to enhance the capacity of the country's security institutions to effectively fight an enemy force possessing logistical resources which enabled it to conduct carefully planned military operations.

23. His Government supported all international, regional and subregional efforts to crush terrorism and had signed all 13 international instruments and conventions on the subject. It attached great importance to the relevant Security Council resolutions concerning international terrorism and had submitted reports on its implementation of Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), on the situation in Afghanistan and 1373 (2001) on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. It was in the process of preparing its national report on compliance with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), on threats to international peace and security. At the regional level, it was stepping up exchanges of counter-terrorist information with other countries and it regularly held constructive meetings with senior military and diplomatic officials of the Government of Pakistan and the United States of America.

24. He called for the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the earliest opportunity. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had been a milestone achievement. His country's authorities fully endorsed the recommendations it contained and were committed to implementing its provisions. The convening of a high-level conference on international terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations would stiffen the political will of the international community to overcome terrorism. The United Nations should play a central role in leading and coordinating the fight against that scourge. The technical capacity-building assistance it gave States was commendable. His Government stood ready to make additional efforts at the national, regional and international level to defeat international terrorism.

25. **Ms. Walker** (Jamaica) said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was a scourge which had rightly been condemned by all States. The misery, death and destruction which resulted from acts of terrorism could not be justified on any grounds.

26. Her Government was cooperating fully with the international community in order to remove that threat and it therefore welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Internal procedures had been initiated to allow for the signature and ratification of the latter. The authorities of her country were determined to honour their obligations under United Nations resolutions on countering terrorism and they were a party to 12 United Nations anti-terrorism agreements. The Terrorism Prevention Act had been passed in 2005 to implement those agreements. Four country reports had been submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

27. Nevertheless her country, like many developing countries, faced constraints in terms of human and financial resources when it came to the reporting obligations imposed by the Security Council. Although the capacity to provide information existed, it was difficult to prepare several reports in the same period. Serious consideration should therefore be given to following the recommendation concerning the streamlining of reporting obligations to the various counter-terrorism bodies, which had been made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome.

28. The meeting between officials of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, experts from the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 and representatives of countries from the Caribbean Community in February of that year had provided an opportunity for countries to address and receive advice on issues of concern. As meetings of that nature helped developing countries to participate effectively in the battle against terrorism, she hoped that they would continue on a regular basis.

29. Any effort to combat terrorism must take place in the context of respect for international law, human rights and international humanitarian law; otherwise it would undermine the very democratic institutions, peace and stability the international community sought to preserve. At the same time, endeavours to counter other threats to peace and security, such as drug

trafficking should remain a high priority. In the long run, only a comprehensive, balanced approach based on the rule of law and respect for the individual could successfully put an end to terrorism.

30. **Ms. Skaare** (Norway) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism must never be tolerated and could never be justified. It must be prevented and combated at the national and international level. It could be defeated only by improving education, fostering cultural understanding, promoting development and encouraging peace and reconciliation in an effort to improve conditions otherwise conducive to the spread of terrorism and extremism. International terrorist acts could be averted only by establishing closer cooperation between police and judicial authorities and, as a last resort, by using force on the conditions authorized by the Charter of the United Nations. The fight against terrorism was ultimately a struggle over values. For that reason, endeavours to thwart terrorism would be successful only if they abided by the principles of the rule of law and universal human rights.

31. Norway's foreign policy strategy for combating international terrorism took a comprehensive approach based on fundamental values and was in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Her Government would therefore work with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to give effect to the Strategy. The United Nations should take a leading role in the worldwide fight against terrorism. The part played by the General Assembly in that respect could be further strengthened by reaching agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Hence her Government would give priority to expediting efforts in that direction.

32. **Mr. Kryzhanivskyi** (Ukraine), speaking on behalf of the GUAM group of countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), said that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should continue to play a key role in providing a solid legal basis for promoting cooperation in combating international terrorism. The GUAM delegations resolutely condemned international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism led to the death of innocent people and could not be justified on any grounds, no matter who carried them out. Their instigators and perpetrators must be brought to justice.

33. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was welcome, because it outlined a full-scale programme of the measures which needed to be taken by the international community in order to eliminate what was increasingly becoming a real challenge to global peace and security. He therefore called on Member States to make additional efforts during the current session to adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

34. The GUAM group of countries were running two projects in the area of counter-terrorism and border security: they had established the GUAM Virtual Centre for Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Other Dangerous Types of Crime and they had set up the GUAM Interstate Information Management System (IIMS). The Virtual Centre served as a focal point for the online communication, analysis and exchange of operational information on law-enforcement activities, for the facilitation of joint operations and for the coordination of major crime investigations. The IIMS was an information backup and support system enabling the relevant authorities of the GUAM group of countries to exchange data and other information through a protected satellite communications channel.

35. Terrorism was not only a threat to all societies, it was also an attack on the values that defined the international community. Action to combat terrorism would be most successful if it abided by the rule of law, respected human rights, protected civilians and displayed religious tolerance.

36. **Mr. Dos Santos** (Mozambique) said that continuing terrorist attacks around the world were a standing reminder that terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. There was no cause or grievance that could justify terrorist acts. As a clear demonstration of its political will, Mozambique had already acceded to or ratified 12 of the major international conventions on terrorism, and he was pleased to report that his Government had recently signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and was now in the process of ratifying it. In the African region, Mozambique was a party to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. In keeping with the Mozambican Constitution, having been approved and ratified, those international legal instruments had become part of domestic law.

37. His delegation joined others in welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy's plan of action provided clear vision and guidance on action-oriented measures to be taken by the international community, particularly Member States, in addressing the serious threat posed by terrorism. The Strategy would enhance coordination within the United Nations system and facilitate cooperation with other relevant actors in the field of counter-terrorism. His delegation was pleased to note that the Strategy reaffirmed the need for all States to comply with their obligations under international law, in particular, human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. Measures against terrorism must comply with international law.

38. His delegation commended the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee in drafting the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and sincerely hoped that the remaining outstanding issues could be resolved soon. To that end, all States involved in the negotiations must demonstrate a more flexible and constructive approach.

39. Mozambique also commended the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by UNODC in implementing its mandate in the field of technical assistance (A/61/178). Such assistance was of particular importance for Mozambique and other developing countries as they strove to fulfil their international obligations in relation to preventing and combating terrorism. His delegation therefore welcomed the new focus for UNODC activity and the intensification of its efforts to provide adequate technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries to facilitate the implementation of international treaties and other relevant international legal instruments related to terrorism, in particular through training in the judicial and prosecutorial fields, in the drafting of internal legislation and in law enforcement. Mozambique also endorsed the recommendation contained in the report that UNODC should continue and enhance the relations established with relevant subregional and regional organizations in order to sustain political will for counter-terrorism activities.

40. **Mr. Choisuren** (Mongolia) said that, by upholding its central role in setting international counter-terrorism standards and coordinating the global fight against terrorism, the United Nations had greatly enhanced its standing and relevance in the present-day world. Indeed, his delegation considered the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and plan of action to be one of the major achievements of the previous session of the General Assembly. It was his hope that the Sixth Committee would focus its attention on the task of concluding the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism. By taking a common and unequivocal stance against terrorism, the countries of the world had laid a solid foundation to enhance efforts to fight against it. The international community should step up all efforts to fully implement the measures agreed in the Global Strategy.

41. His delegation joined other States in unequivocally condemning all forms of terrorism and reiterating that terrorism could not be justified for any reason. Mongolia had shown its resolute intention to contribute to the international fight against terrorism and related crimes by signing all 13 of the universal counter-terrorism instruments and their protocols, including the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, ratified in July 2006, and by carrying out an extensive legal reform aimed at bringing the body of national laws into line with international norms. The reform had included a law against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

42. To raise awareness about international instruments against terrorism and other crimes, a special edition of the official gazette containing all the conventions and protocols to which Mongolia was a party had been published in the native language, with the assistance of UNODC, and widely distributed among both governmental and non-governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies. It was important to intensify United Nations efforts to provide technical assistance to strengthen international cooperation in building and enhancing national counter-terrorism capacity through training in law enforcement fields, and his delegation therefore supported the appeals made by some delegations for increased resources to be provided to UNODC.

43. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that his delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remained deeply committed to international counter-terrorism efforts. The fight against the scourge of terrorism required a concerted effort from all Member States. Lebanon considered

cooperation to be a key element for the success of the fight, and was actively cooperating with other partners. It had ratified 12 of the 13 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and was in the process of ratifying the remaining one.

44. Lebanon had joined the consensus on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and considered it to be a good step forward. The Strategy included certain important elements that reflected some, but not all, of his delegation's concerns. First, it recognized the legitimate right of people to resist an occupying power and clearly differentiated between terrorists and those exercising that right. Second, the Strategy also recognized the need to address the root causes of terrorism, including, but not limited to, prolonged unresolved conflicts. In that regard, Lebanon considered injustice to be one of the major causes of terrorism and deemed foreign occupation to be one of the worst injustices that could be inflicted upon a population.

45. Third, the Strategy acknowledged the existence of State terrorism and included in its action plan a clear call for States to refrain from organizing and participating in terrorist activities. That was a clear recognition of the long-denied reality that States could participate in terrorist activities. State terrorism was manifested by wanton violence against civilians and included acts such as the illegal practice of targeted killing or extrajudicial killing, collective punishment, and summary and arbitrary execution. It was intended to inculcate fear, terrorize, intimidate, coerce and kill a civilian population. The principle of State responsibility stipulated that States should be held accountable for their acts, especially when those acts were of a criminal nature and tantamount to genocide and war crimes. States, like individuals, should not be above the law, nor should they regard themselves as being immune to the extent that they could commit crimes with impunity.

46. For an entire month, his country had been subject to State terrorism by Israel. Lebanese cities, towns and villages had been pounded with thousands of bombs of all kinds and sizes, including cluster bombs, "vacuum bombs" and phosphorus bombs, all of which were internationally prohibited. There had been 1,200 casualties and 4,092 injuries among the Lebanese civilian population, and an additional 133 people had fallen victim to unexploded ordnance after the cessation of hostilities. Forty per cent of the victims had been children. Over 900,000 Lebanese citizens had been forced to flee their towns and villages during the Israeli aggression, and 200,000 remained displaced.

47. Fourth, and most important, the Strategy stressed that all measures taken by States to combat terrorism should respect the rule of law and should conform to international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law. Nevertheless, the Strategy failed to mention the necessity of defining terrorism. Lebanon supported a review of the Strategy on a periodic basis, believing that it should remain a living document to be adapted and updated in order to ensure its comprehensiveness and its responsiveness to emerging needs. His delegation wished to re-emphasize the central role of the General Assembly in the fight against terrorism.

48. Lebanon supported all efforts to push forward the negotiation on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and stood ready to cooperate with all other partners. His delegation supported the creation of a working group to finalize the convention. Finally, Lebanon supported all efforts intended to promote mutual understanding and foster dialogue between cultures and civilizations, such as the initiatives being promoted in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. Such initiatives proved once more that dialogue was the most appropriate way of bridging differences, understanding one another and promoting common interests.

49. **Mr. Diallo** (Mali) said that terrorism constituted a threat to peace, security and development. It eroded the rule of law and weakened the credibility of public institutions. Protecting the Malian population from terrorism was one of the chief concerns of his Government, which had made the fight against terrorism a priority of its anti-crime policy. The scourge of terrorism had no respect for national boundaries, and Mali was therefore firmly convinced that it could only be addressed through cooperation on a regional and international scale. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and hoped that the General Assembly would go on to adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, as well as a mechanism for implementing the Strategy.

50. Mali had ratified 12 of the 13 international conventions on terrorism and had taken similar actions

at the regional and subregional levels. At the national level, a law on suppression of terrorism had recently been adopted, criminalizing both terrorism and the financing thereof.

51. The fight against terrorism in all its forms could not be dissociated from its underlying causes, which included poverty, exclusion, all forms of discrimination, injustice, inequality and foreign occupation. At the same time, any definition of terrorism must clearly distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for their independence. Mali believed that in the fight against terrorism, the international community must not lose sight of the fact that the particular situation of some countries made them especially vulnerable to terrorist acts. Technical assistance was therefore needed to improve and strengthen national and regional capacity to combat terrorism.

52. In that connection, his country had welcomed the recent visit of a group led by Mr. Javier Rupérez, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, who had reaffirmed the willingness of the United Nations to continue providing assistance to Mali in its efforts to combat terrorism. That visit had taken place in the framework of the evaluation of his country's implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). He was pleased to confirm that Mali had submitted to the committees concerned its reports on the implementation of that resolution and resolution 1455 (2003).

53. **Ms. Aghajanian** (Armenia) said that 2006, like previous years, had not been exempt from terrorist acts that had claimed the lives of many innocent people. Those acts had once again demonstrated vividly that uprooting terrorism would require tireless and persistent efforts on the part of the world community at all levels — national, regional and international. To that end, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy would address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, particularly social and economic problems that could create fertile recruiting grounds for the masterminds of terrorism.

54. Armenia utilized all existing bilateral, regional and international capabilities to enhance its capacities in the fight against terrorism. It was a party to almost all the United Nations and Council of Europe anti-terrorism conventions, including the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which it had signed in 2005 and was in the process of ratifying. In addition, it cooperated extensively in the counter-terrorism activities of regional organizations such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC). Armenia was currently in the process of ratifying the Additional Protocol on Combating Terrorism to the Agreement among the Governments of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Participating States on Cooperation in Combating Crime, in Particular in its Organized Forms. The Armenian law enforcement authorities had taken special measures against organized crime, terrorist and extremist groups, and cases of illicit trafficking of arms, armaments and vehicles.

55. Armenia was cooperating successfully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and other relevant Security Council committees, submitting the required reports in a timely fashion. A visit by a group of experts from the Counter-Terrorism Committee during the summer of 2006 had been extremely useful in discussing the possibilities for enhanced capacity-building in Armenia. Her Government believed that prevention, especially through education and awareness-raising, was the best defence against the spread of terrorism.

56. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that terrorism was a cancer on the world community that needed to be eradicated. It was imperative, therefore, that the malady should first be clearly defined, in order to distinguish terrorist acts from other situations. His delegation was fully aware that the task of agreeing on a definition would call for a lot of patience, flexibility and compromise. However, given the magnitude of the threat, that was a small price to pay. His delegation stood ready to contribute positively to the successful conclusion of that task.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.